

Is The Coronavirus Considered A Disaster, And Can I Receive Disaster Unemployment Assistance?

If the president of the United States declares the coronavirus a national disaster, and if individuals experience a loss of work as a result, they may be eligible for unemployment benefits and/or Disaster Unemployment Assistance. If Delaware launches the Disaster Unemployment Assistance program the public will be notified.

If An Employee Receives Unemployment Benefits As A Result Of A Coronavirus-related Business Shutdown, Will The Employer's Unemployment Taxes Increase?

Unemployment benefits are proportionately charged to each employer based on weeks worked and wages earned in each individual's base period. Contributory employers could see an increase in their tax rate, which could result in higher taxes. Reimbursing employers would be charged dollar for dollar for benefits paid, which could result in higher

than expected unemployment costs. Employers are able to apply for a rehire credit.

Are Claimants Required To Look For Work?

Work search requirements will be waived during the state of emergency for claimants filing for benefits as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.

How Do I File For Benefits Or Contact The Office With Questions?

Workers should file for benefits on the Delaware Division of Unemployment Insurance website at <https://ui.delawareworks.com/>.

The phone lines are extremely busy and the Delaware Department of Labor (DOL) is working to add employees. Email your questions to uiclaims@delaware.gov and please include your name and claim/confirmation number, if you have one.

DOL has a Frequently Asked Questions flyer available via text – text uifacts to 555888, and available on their websites at dol.delaware.gov or ui.delawareworks.com. People can also call [302-761-8446](tel:302-761-8446) however, there is a longer than usual wait

time to speak with a claims processor.

For more information about the details around eligibility please see the [CARES Act FAQ's sheet](#) provided by Senator Tom Carper's office.

[Sign up for weekly email Unemployment Updates for Delawareans.](#)

The email will also contain:

- Updates on UI claims processing procedures
- Links to employment resources
- Immediate employment opportunities for those affected by job loss due to the global pandemic

Visit [DOL on Facebook](#), where they are posting frequent videos and information about unemployment.

Can I change my NAICS code to a code that is essential?

- The NAICS code that should be used is the NAICS code that the business had for their most recent unemployment and/or tax filings prior to the issuance of the State of Emergency. A business classified as non-essential who changes or adds a NAICS code in order to fall under the essential category will be subject to the same civil and criminal penalties as a company that knowingly fails to comply with the order.
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What if my business has multiple NAICS codes?

- Follow the least restrictive code. If one code is deemed essential while others are not, the business should be considered essential unless further clarification has been given by the state to you directly or through an industry trade group.
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What happens if my business fails to comply with the order, either regarding our status as essential or non-essential, or with following CDC guidelines?

- Failure to follow CDC guidelines will result in closure on an individual firm basis until the State of Emergency is lifted. Businesses who continue to operate even if they have been deemed non-essential will be given an initial grace if their failure to comply was done after a good faith effort to clarify their status, but those who do not comply and knowingly do so will be subject to civil and in some cases criminal penalties.

How do I determine if my business is designated as essential?

- The easiest way is to use the four-digit NAICS code associated with the business. If you are the owner of the business, you can locate your NAICS code by a) looking at your unemployment insurance forms, b) looking at your most recent tax returns, or c) searching Google for your industry followed by the term “NAICS code”.
- If you are not the owner of your business, please contact your manager or other appropriate employment supervisor and ask them for clarification on the business status.
- Once you have your industry coded, you can use this [filterable search to find whether that industry is essential](#).

My employer says our business is essential, do I still need to report to work?

- Staffing questions should be addressed between employers and employees. As long as employers are following applicable guidelines on both leave and on the recent

essential designation, then employees should handle any requests directly with employers.

Does the order require that I obtain any paperwork, either as an employer or an employee of an essential business, to clarify that status?

- No, it does not, and no such paperwork is needed. A full list of essential industries can be found [here](#). If your business activity is designated as essential, your business is permitted to remain open as long as it follows all necessary CDC guidelines for safety at this time.